

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043662  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 H-01  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 IGA-02 MC-02 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN  
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER  
NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM  
NEA/RA:COL.RHOBBS  
PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

-----262306 063874 /62

O 262302Z FEB 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:BEXP, MASS, KU

SUBJECT: TACOMA BOAT COMPANY AND KUWAIT NAVAL PATROL  
BOATS SALE

REF: KUWAIT 346

1. TACOMA BOAT VICE PRESIDENT MARTIN KANE ACCOMPANIED BY  
CONGRESSMAN DICKS (DEM.-WASHINGTON) CALLED BRIEFLY ON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER FEBRUARY 25; THEN MET  
WITH ARP AND RA OFFICERS TO DISCUSS STATUS OF TACOMA  
BOAT SALES TO KUWAIT NAVY.

2. EMPHASIZING STRONG OFFICIAL FRENCH PRESSURE ON  
KUWAITIS TO PURCHASE FRENCH BOATS, KANE MADE STRONG  
PITCH FOR OFFICIAL U.S. SUPPORT OF HIS COMPANY, SPECIFI-  
CALLY THAT YOU CONVEY U.S. INTEREST IN SALE TO MINDEF  
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SHEIKH SA'AD. KANE WAS INFORMED BY NEA OFFICERS THAT  
THOUGH WE WISH TO GIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO COMMERCIAL  
SALES, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE UNQUALIFIED  
SUPPORT TO TACOMA BOAT IN LIGHT OF OUR CURRENT COMPRE-  
HENSIVE ARMS REVIEW NOR COULD WE APPEAR TO BE  
GUARANTEEING TO THE KUWAITIS AN EVENTUAL MUNITIONS  
CONTROL APPROVAL.

3. CONGRESSMAN DICKS EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, BUT HOPED THAT SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR TACOMA BOAT COULD BE DONE BY EMBASSY KUWAIT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CURRENT POLICY GUIDELINES. KANE NOTED THAT THERE IS SOME URGENCY IN HIS REQUEST BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS KUWAITI COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING FEBRUARY 28 WILL PROBABLY MAKE FINAL DECISION ON AWARDING CONTRACT FOR NAVAL PATROL CRAFT.

4. IF APPROPRIATE OCCASION ARISES YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INDICATE AT YOUR DISCRETION THAT USG IS AWARE OF TACOMA BOAT INTEREST IN RECEIVING EQUAL CONSIDERATION WITH OTHER BIDDERS. YOU SHOULD NOT GO FURTHER IN ENDORSING TACOMA BID SINCE USG IS NOW REVIEWING PERSIAN GULF MILITARY SALES POLICY AND WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT THAT MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE FOR PATROL CRAFT WILL BE ISSUED.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE043662  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JRCOUNTRYMAN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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